



ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

Vol. 6 No. 3

March 2003

● Public Hearings For Proposed Changes To The Electrical WAC Rules

Videoconference equipment will be available to accept public comments at these locations:

March 25, 2003—1:00-5:00 PM

Labor and Industries Building, Room S117
7273 Linderson Way, **Tumwater** 360-902-6195

Labor and Industries, Room EVER2
729 100th Street SE, **Everett** 425-290-1379

Labor and Industries, Room EWENLG
519 Grant Road, East **Wenatchee** 509-886-6590

Labor and Industries, Room 102
15 W Yakima Avenue, #100, **Yakima** 509-454-3790

March 26, 2003—1:00-5:00 PM

Labor and Industries, Room VANCMS 1
312 SE Stonemill Dr., #120, **Vancouver** 360-896-2396

Labor and Industries, Room TUKWTRN
12806 Gateway Drive, **Tukwila** 206-835-1037

Labor and Industries, Room KENNLG 1
4310 West 24th Avenue, **Kennewick** 509-735-0100

Labor and Industries, Room SPOK 1
901 N. Monroe St., #100, **Spokane** 509-324-2574

We Must Receive Written, E-Mailed, Or Faxed Comments No Later Than March 27, 2003

Mailing Address: Chief Electrical Inspector
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PO Box 44460, Olympia, WA 98504-4460

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(10 page limit by FAX) 360-902-5292
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WAC 296-46A—*Safety Standards-Installing Electric Wires and Equipment-Administrative Rules*, WAC 296-401B—*Certification of Competency for Journeyman Electricians*, WAC 296-13—*Practice and Procedure-Electrical Board*, and WAC 296-402A—*Electrical Evaluation/Certification Laboratory Accreditation* have been revised and consolidated together into a single document titled **WAC 296-46B—Safety Standards-Installing Electric Wires and Equipment-Administrative Rules**. The proposed revisions: adopts the 2002 National Electrical Code, creates four new electrical specialties, reduces the on the job training requirements for some specialties, increases the trainee renewal period to two years, includes master electrician certification and fees, and makes technical changes and clarification of existing rule sections. The tentative effective date for these rules is early May 2003.

The proposed rule changes are available online at: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/scs/electrical/whatsnew.htm> under the Draft WAC Rules link. Copies of the proposed rules will also be available at the public hearings.

● REMEMBER!! Engine Generator Listing And Labeling Required April 30, 2003

From the April 2002 issue of this newsletter: UL 2200, *Stationary Engine Generator Assemblies* is the standard recognized by the department for the approval of stationary engine generators. The standard has been in effect since 1998 and manufacturers have had adequate time to conform; in fact, hundreds of listed products are available today. **Beginning April 30, 2003**, the department will require all engine generators rated 600 volt or less to be listed/labeled (or field evaluated) by a Washington State accredited electrical products certification laboratory or electrical products evaluation laboratory.

● ATTENTION “THIRD-YEAR” SPECIALTY TRAINEES

Individuals who were allowed to “grandfather” previous experience and were issued special third-year training certificates **can no longer work unsupervised or supervise** other trainees. If you have not completed the examination and received your specialty electrician certificate, you must renew your training certificate on or before the expiration date on your current certificate.

● ATTENTION ALL SPECIALTY TRAINEES

The year designation now on training certificates will not be printed on training certificates when the new electrical WAC rules become effective and supervision requirements will be changing.

100% supervision will be required of trainees working in the **03A-Domestic Well**, **06B-HVAC/refrigeration-Restricted**, **07A-Nonresidential Lighting Maintenance and Lighting Retrofit**,

07B-Residential Maintenance, 07D-Appliance Repair, and 10-Door, Gate, and Similar Systems specialties until they are eligible for and pass their examination (06B-1000 hours, others-720 hours). When these trainees pass the examination, they may work unsupervised until their modified training certificate expires.

Current supervision standards (75%) are required of trainees in the **02-Residential, 03-Pump and Irrigation, 04-Signs, 06-Limited Energy, 06A-HVAC/refrigeration, 07-Nonresidential Maintenance, 07C-Restricted Nonresidential Maintenance, and 07E-Equipment Repair** specialties. Similar supervision by a **01** journeyman in a one-to-one ratio is still required of trainees doing commercial/industrial work.

● **NEW ELECTRICAL SPECIALTIES—Opportunities For Certification**

Engrossed Senate Bill 6630 from the 2002 legislative session enabled the creation and modification of electrical specialties. Based on industry input, there will be another “open-window” period (until September 30, 2004) for individuals with previous appropriate electrical experience to apply their experience towards qualifying for the specialty electrician examination in certain specialties. The following specialties will be in the open-window opportunity:

Revised 03A-Domestic Well

NEW 07C-Restricted Nonresidential Maintenance

Revised 06A-HVAC/refrigeration system

NEW 07D-Appliance Repair

NEW 06B-HVAC/refrigeration system-Restricted

NEW 07E-Equipment Repair

07A-Nonresidential Lighting Maintenance

10-Door, Gate, and Similar Systems

07B-Residential Maintenance

Individuals with prior experience in one or more of the areas of electrical maintenance or installation above should review details of proposed scope(s) of work to ensure that they are making the best choice(s) about the applicability of their experience. **All electricians are examined on the entire scope of work that they are allowed to do, not just the specific experience they may have.** The proposed rule changes are available online at our home page under the What's New then Draft WAC Rules links.

● **Owner's Exemption—Manufactured/Mobile Homes (Lots & In Mobile Home Parks)**

The department's position on property owners developing electrical facilities to support mobile homes and manufactured homes on lots and in mobile home parks needs to be stated so we can ensure consistency statewide. The statute does not require contractor licensing or electrician certification of a property owner doing electrical work on their residence, farm, or place of business except for the “construction” of a new building for rent, sale, or lease. The department does not consider the placement of a manufactured/mobile home to be building construction.

- An electrical contractor must install all electrical services, feeders, and accessory circuits if the home, lot, or park space is for sale.
- An electrical contractor or property owner may install electrical services, feeders, and accessory circuits if ownership of the lot or park space is retained.
- An electrical contractor or manufactured/mobile homeowners may install feeders and accessory circuits on a rented or leased lot or park space.

● **Electrical Question Of The Month**

This Month's Question: Overcurrent protection is required on the secondary conductors of all transformers. A) True; B) False

Last Month's Question: The grounding conductor connected to the available electrodes for a feeder panel fed from a separate building shall be sized per 2002 NEC-_____; based on the size of the _____. A) 250.66, main breaker; B) 250.122, overcurrent device protecting the feeder; C) 250.122, main breaker; D) 250.66, conductors feeding the panel.

The answer is: D) [NEC 250.32(E)]